



Department of Justice

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JACKSONVILLE BEACH MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES
AND AGREES TO FORFEITURE OF THE RESIDENCE
WHERE HE DOWNLOADED AND COLLECTED THE
PORNOGRAPHY FROM THE INTERNET

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that William Joseph McCarthy (age 57, of Jacksonville Beach) has pleaded guilty to receiving child pornography over the Internet. McCarthy faces at least 5 years and up to 20 years in federal prison. He will be required to register as a sex offender, and he has agreed to the forfeiture of his Jacksonville Beach residence, where he downloaded and collected the pornography from the internet. A sentencing date has not yet been scheduled.

According to court documents, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted a search for individuals who were trading images of child pornography using a particular internet file sharing program. They traced a file of child pornography available for downloading or "sharing" to a particular Internet Protocol (IP) address that was registered to McCarthy at his Jacksonville Beach home.

On February 4, 2009, law enforcement agents executed a federal search warrant at McCarthy's residence. They made contact with McCarthy, who admitted having downloaded sexually explicit images of children. McCarthy denied having any "desire to go pursue kids," but said that he found the child pornography images "different," "not

allowed,” and “exciting.” He said that he had been using the targeted file sharing program to download child pornography for several years and that he probably had been looking at child pornography for about four years. He said that he had viewed images with children as young as “in diapers.”

Agents seized several computer systems from McCarthy’s residence that McCarthy had built to enhance the computers’ memory and capacity. McCarthy’s computers contained approximately 60,875 images and 649 videos depicting child pornography. Analysis showed that McCarthy had downloaded numerous images and videos from the internet using internet file sharing programs. Several of the images and videos of child pornography that McCarthy received and possessed portray sadistic conduct.

This case was investigated by ICE and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This investigation was part of ICE’s Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to identify, investigate and arrest those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign-national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 12,000 individuals through Operation Predator.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-347-2423. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

This case is also part of the Department of Justice’s Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in 2006 that is designed to protect children from online

sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices and DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafekidhood.gov.